

MARVEL

MARK WAID

MIKE WIERINGO

KARL KESEL

60

FANTASTIC FOUR®



KRIS
KESEL
ISANJOVE

...recall their first adventure together... when scientist Reed Richards took his fiancee Susan Storm and her brother Johnny on an exploratory starship piloted by aviator Ben Grimm.

AS THE INTREPID FOURSOME PREPARES FOR FLIGHT...

You're aware, I presume, of what happened next?

SHE'LL HANDLE LIKE A DREAM! I PROMISE YOU THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME!

Disaster.

Richards severely underestimated the amount of shielding required to pass safely through the Van Allen Belt and beyond...

...leaving them vulnerable to immeasurable levels of radiation. Then...

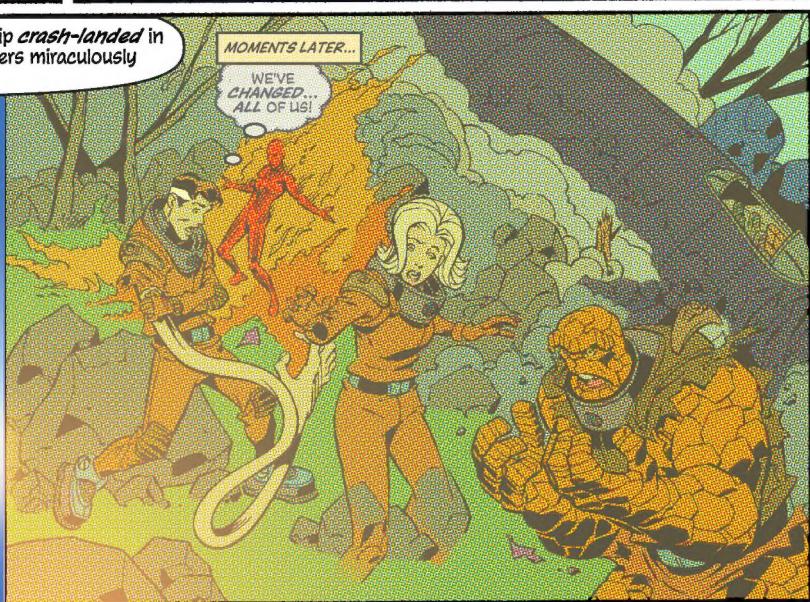
Hear that? IT'S COSMIC RAYS! I WARNED YA ABOUT 'EM, EGGHEAD! I WARNED YA!



...then, its mission aborted, the starship crash-landed in the California woods -- its passengers miraculously unharmed --

MOMENTS LATER...

WE'VE CHANGED... ALL OF US!



-- because their bodies had been mutated by the radiation -- freakishly transformed.

AND SO WAS BORN:

THE HUMAN TORCH!

MR. FANTASTIC!

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN!

THE EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-EYED THING!

The Fantastic Four!

Still, in a way I cannot even begin to fathom, they turned tragedy into triumph. From that day forward, Richards and his friends began new lives... and as a family and a team, ushered in what we know today as the Age of Marvels.

Lights?

The Fantastic Four are pioneers of science... they are the world's first *Imaginauts*, if you will...



Are we there yet?

Are we there yet?

Are we THERE yet?

Hah I knew it!

Reed toldja
t'drain the lizard
before we left,
Matchstick!

Johnny!
Ben! Please!

Hey!











Inside Out

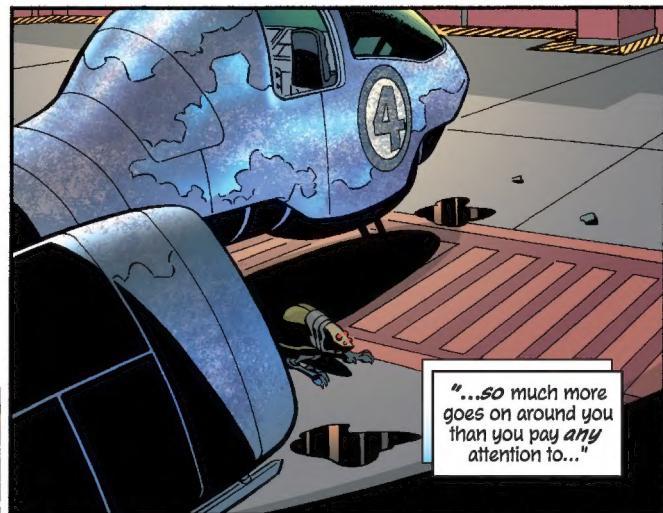
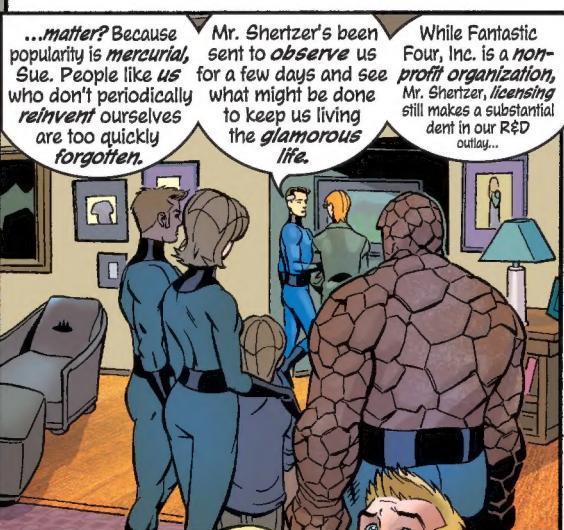
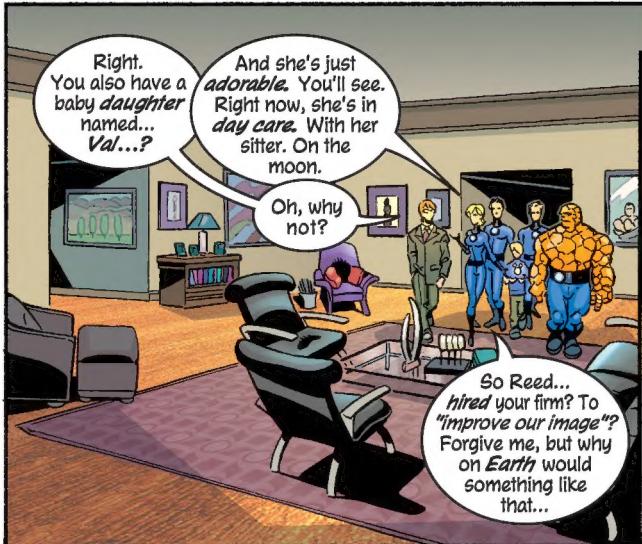
Mark Waid **Writer** • Mike Wieringo **Penciler** • Karl Kesel **Inker**
Paul Mounts **Colors** • Richard Starkings and Comicroft's Albert Deschesne **Letters**
Sumerak & Schmidt **Ass't Editors** • Tom Brevoort **Editor** • Joe Quesada **Chief** • Bill Jemas **President**

Stan Lee and Jack Kirby **Imaginauts**

Do what?

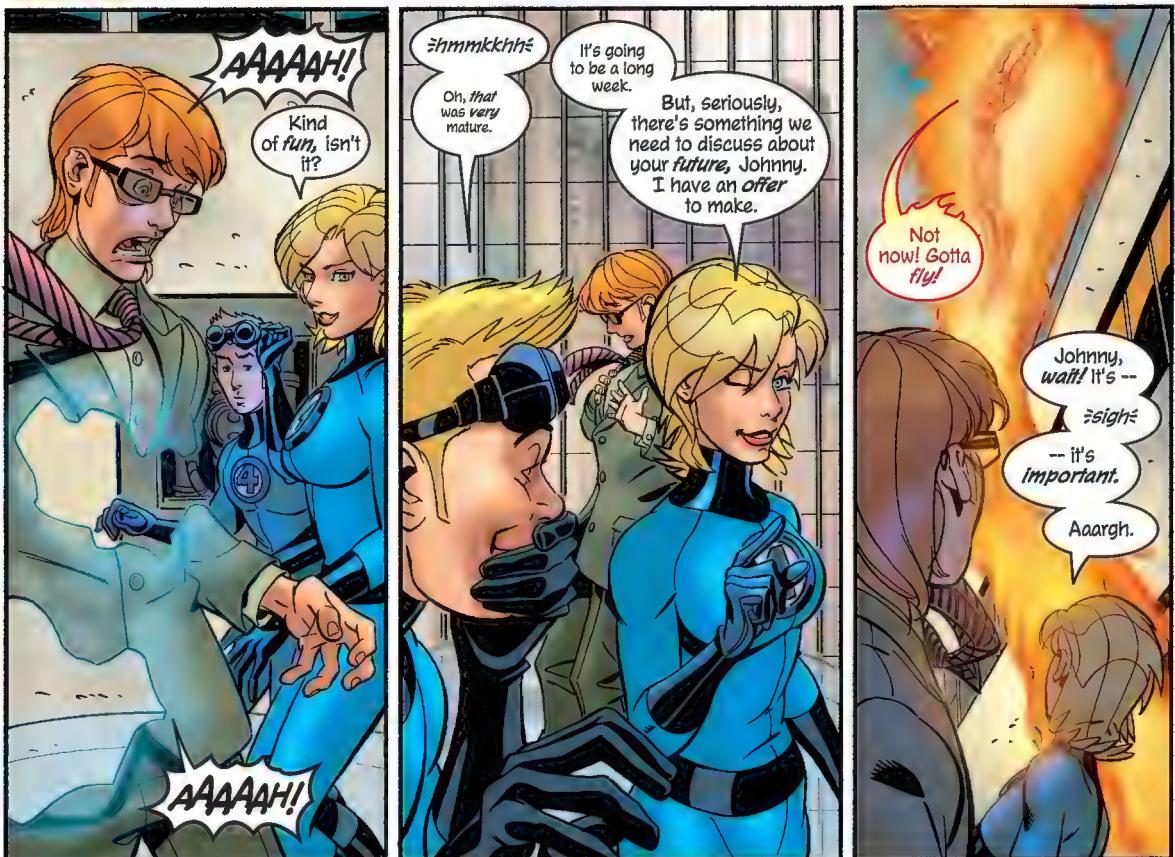
Take a Sunday drive?





MONDAY





TUESDAY

TO: RJ@WEBBER.COM2
RE: Tell my Wife I love her.

Mr Webber:
In the moment before my certain death, I always hoped I'd hear ANGELS singing. Soothing MUSIC. No. Here's a little something not many people know about Reed Richards when he STRETCHES:

That noise made when you drag your hand over a BALLOON...?

Ya know what'd be really good about now?

A big, steamin' cup o' gravity!

I suspect something very similar is what started this, Ben! That liquid all over the floor negates the gravitational pull of the --

Ben, look out!

A LOT of THAT. Only SLIGHTLY less unnerving...

Drag a guy outta bed at three A.M...

How'm I ever gonna give Tom Cruise a run f'r his money without my beauty rest?

...than the CONSTANT sound of a bag of ROCKS in a CLOTHES DRYER.



Good news. I LIVED. You can stop worrying about who to give my OFFICE to.

Richards THANKED the scientists for calling him in, then immediately launched into what, digging through the ten-dollar words, sounded like a lecture on the dangers of playing with "liquid null-gravitons." And then I LEARNED something...

He wasn't invited.

Huh?



This think-tank of geniuses. "Cause Cerebral." It's an annual event. Reed says next to the Nobels, an Invitation is the greatest honor in science.

Reed's been attending since he was seventeen, but...

But ya mean those burns included him out this year? Heck, he's probably smarter'n all of 'em put together! Why would they...?



Is that why he hired my firm? I dunno! I swear!

I mean, I can't judge the size of his ego --

No, you can't. You listen to me. Reed is very humble -- but if his ego were a thousand times bigger than you just insinuated, he'd still be entitled to it.



What she said. I'm not the sharpest tack, but I'm smart enough to know that a mind like Reed's comes along maybe once every hundred years.

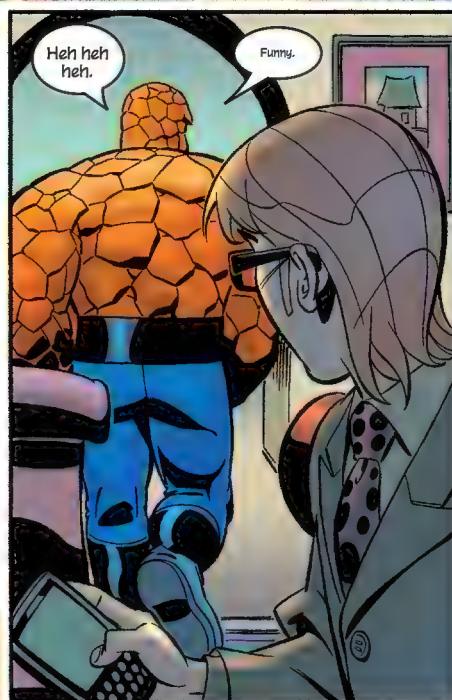
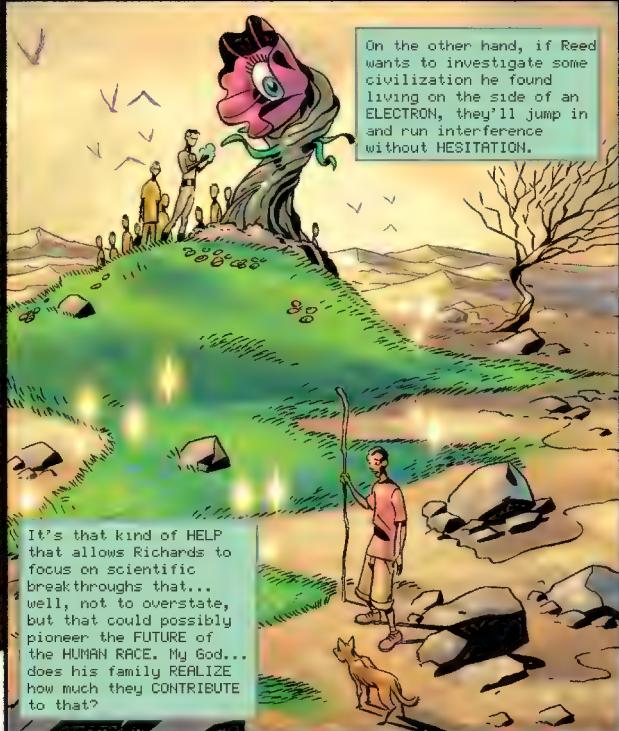
I don't see any of those highbrows who called us in decoding alien languages or rewriting Stephen Hawking. I don't hear about them discovering half the stuff Reed does. Is my brother-in-law weird? Heck, yeah.

But that's the kinda weird that changes the world for the better, and we get the best seats in the house.



Not a bad SPEECH from the KID BROTHER.
Told me something NEW...but not about RICHARDS.

Clearly, the other three are ALL adventurers at heart, but most of the time, Johnny fiddles with CARS, Sue wrestles with MOTHERHOOD, and Ben watches a LOT of WWE. They don't tend to navigate the Amazon or explore rat-infested catacombs "just 'cause."



WEDNESDAY



Think you know what I oughta do?
Well, hater, hate ta say it, I got news for you
you don't know my street, you couldn't take my blows,
see you cryin' while you dyin', trynna find some heroes.
Not me -- I don't let no one mess with mine
just step off, hater, or it's clobberin' time.

Got a sting like the Thing
(yeah, it's clobberin' time)
best believe -- I don't let
no one mess with mine
just step off, hater, or it's
clobberin' time.

Don't no one tell me how to spend my days
I've come too far to let you change my ways
Me and my G's always up for more
we rolling like we goin' all
Fantastic Four!

So?
whatcha
think?

I'm surprised you're surprised,
Mr. Grimm. Groups from Linkin Park
to Cypress Hill drop your name all
the time. They love you. Did you
like the song?

Beats the heck
outta that golden
oldie, "Aaaaah!
Get away from
my baby!"

I think th'
Hulk's gonna be
awful jealous. I dunno
what you nutty kids're
doin'... but keep doin'
it, I guess!

...
Thanks,
pal.

Aaaah, it
still ain't nothin' but
yakkin' to a beat. Who
c'n listen ta that
junk?

THURSDAY

...not me -- I don't let
no one mess with mine
just step off, hater, or it's
clobberin' time...

FRIDAY

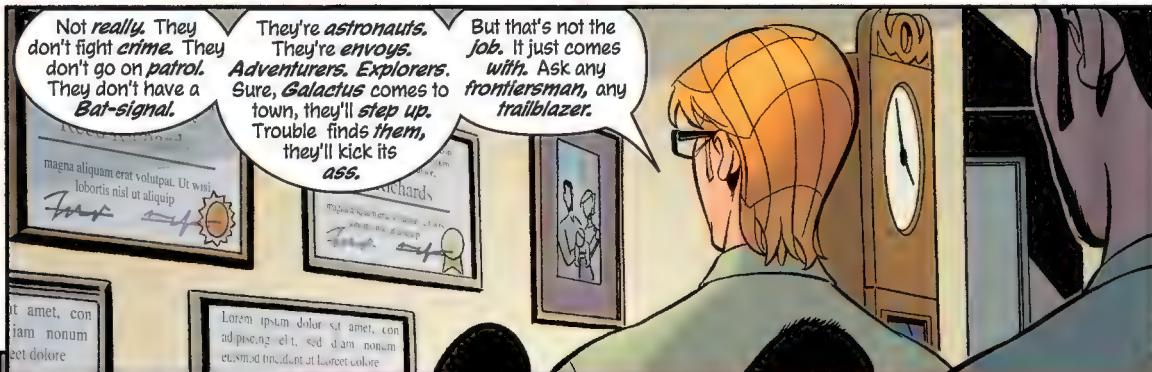
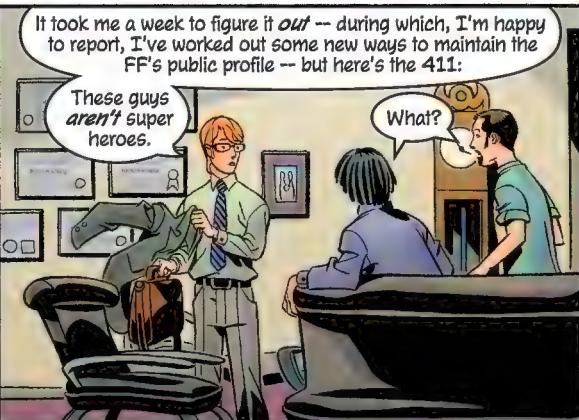
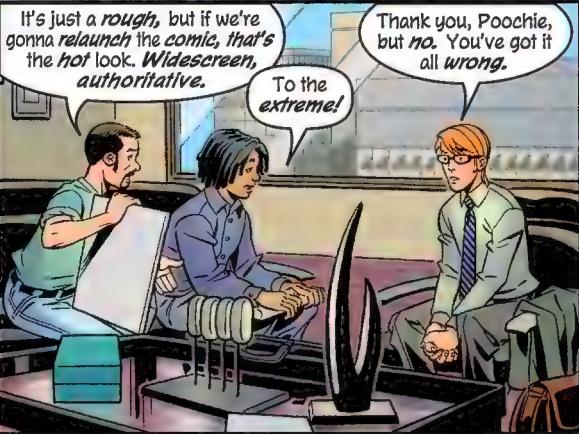
You know what's to our credit as far as this whole husband/wife thing goes? We've developed a good system.

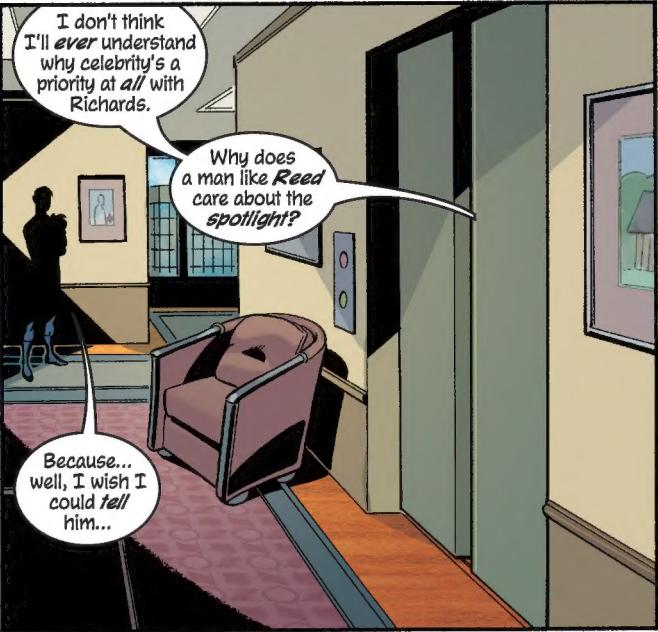
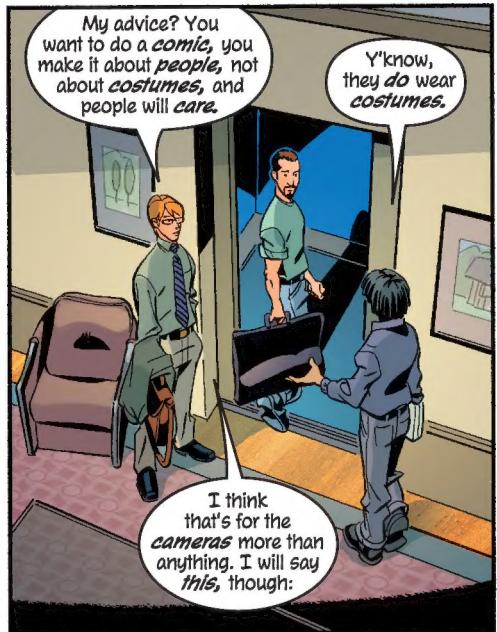


SATURDAY

MARVEL
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F!F!

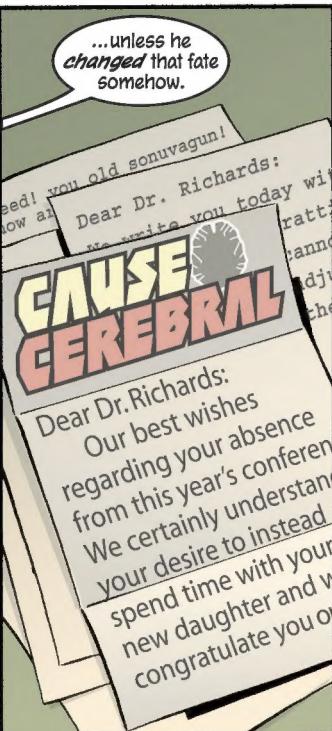




Without proper preparation or shielding, he took his friends through a wave of radiation that made them all something other than human.



...unless he changed that fate somehow.



Unless he made the world see them for what they were: three of the best and bravest people anyone could hope to meet.

So he refused to let them operate in secret. He gave them a home in a city of eight million. And he gave them costumes. And a flying car. And encouraged them to parade around with some pretty outlandish names.



"Mr. Fantastic." Does that sound like something anyone would really want to call themselves? No. But that's the kind of thing that made headlines. And t-shirts. And action figures.

He knew that would keep people from fearing them. You see, glamour and fame weren't options. They were necessities.



Because maybe by turning his friends into celebrities...

...he could be forgiven for taking their normal lives away.



Someday.



4 THOUGHTS

Welcome, one and all, to a brand new era of excitement for Marvel's First Family!

You've spent your hard-earned dime, and now you hold in your hands the start to something so exciting that we had to give it to you for the lowest price in FANTASTIC FOUR history (just to make sure you had no excuse to pass up all the fun)! And you even have a spare penny left over! Don't spend it all in one place...

Starting this issue, writer Mark Waid and artist Mike Wieringo are taking Marvel's flagship title back to the head of the fleet, with stories and ideas that would make FF creators Stan Lee and Jack Kirby proud! They'll be blazing trails to strange worlds and new frontiers—and you, lucky reader, get to jump on this wild ride along with them!

Usually, we'd use this page to read and reply to your letters about recent events in this book...but since we have so many new readers aboard this month, we thought this space might be better used to give you a look at the cool things to come! Even though we're not printing any mail this month, we still want you to get out your pens or jump online and write in

(to the address below) to let us know what you think about the issue, the series, the characters and the creative team! We want to hear from you, our Fantastic Fans... 'cause we're nothing without you!

If you enjoyed this issue as much as I did, here's a tip: SHARE THE LOVE! Head right on back to your local comic shop or newsstand and grab a bunch of copies of this issue to give to your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers! Pass them out at show-and-tell or slip them into mailboxes at work! You'll be the sweetest guy or gal in town! Hey, they're only 9 cents, right? So what do you have to lose? And if you write in and let us know what cool things you did to spread the joy of FANTASTIC FOUR, we'll do our best to print your selfless story right on this very page in an upcoming issue!

Finally, just a reminder: the fun continues next month in FF #61—and we want to see you back here! If you liked this issue, then the next issue is absolutely going to blow your mind, so you better not miss it! Sure, starting next month FF will be back to its regular monthly price (that's \$2.25 in the US), but believe me...you'll be getting your money's worth! And in case you don't believe me, check out the rest of this page for a preview of what's to come in the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR!

Well, that's my 9 cents! See you next time!

Marc Sumerak
Assistant Editor

Did you love FANTASTIC FOUR #60, but don't know where to find the next amazing issue? Well, we're here to help with a few simple suggestions:

OPTION #1: Call the Comic Shop Locator Service at:

1-888-COMIC-BOOK
to find a comic shop near you! And while you're there buying your next issue of FF, be sure to check out some other great Marvel comics... I guarantee, you'll be glad you did!

OPTION #2: Fill out the subscription form on the ad in this very issue (HINT: it was just 5 pages ago) and we'll be glad to send FF right to your own mailbox each and every month! Remember: the more titles you subscribe to, the more you save!

OPTION #3: Visit our website at www.marvel.com for all kinds of inside information, special subscription offers, and even free Dot Comics: on-line versions of some of Marvel's coolest titles!

F.F. #61



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SUMERAK &
ANDY SCHMIDT
ASSISTANT
EDITORS

TOM
BREVOORT
EDITOR

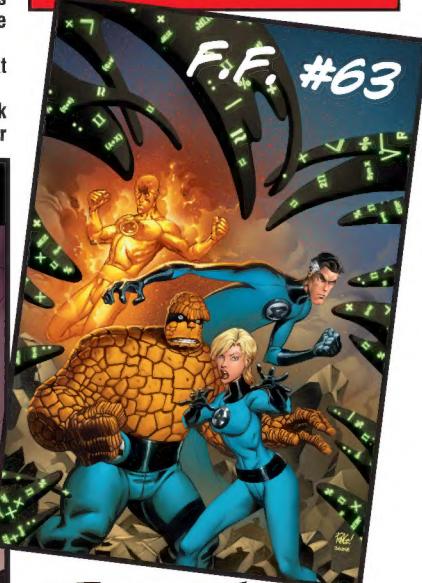
JOE
QUESADA
CHIEF

F.F. #62



Cover colored by Richard Isanove
FF Logo designed by Adam Cichowski

F.F. #63



NEXT ISSUE:

A FAMILY DIVIDED! THE
THING VS. THE HUMAN
TORCH!! JOIN US FOR
THE MOST GRIZZLY
ENDING THAT JOHNNY
STORM COULD
POSSIBLY IMAGINE!!!

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